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CABINET PAPER - PRIVILEGED

RA-25

*Operation Alert*

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July 4, 1955

The White House, Washington

THE CABINET

Record of Action

The following is the action taken on the items presented at the Cabinet Meeting on Friday July 1, 1955:

1. The International Cooperation Administration

Information Item only

2. Communist Propaganda in the Cold War

**ACTION:** The Deputy Assistant to the President will arrange for this presentation to be shown to the bipartisan leadership prior to their meeting with the President on July 12.

3. Report and Recommendations on OPERATION ALERT, 1955

CP-29

**ACTION:** (a) The Recommendations in CP-29 were given general approval as guidelines for continuing planning and testing.

(b) Additional Recommendations were also approved as follows:

(i) The next test (about June, 1956) is to be three-way i.e., civil defense, continuity of government and military exercise.

(ii) Plans are to be made by Heads of Departments and Agencies, under ODM guidelines, for surprise alerts to test out their own operations, sometime during the winter months.

(iii) Various segments of readiness plans will be given continuous testing.

(c) The Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization will bring back for subsequent Cabinet discussion recommendations of the Agencies with respect to future continuous staffing of the relocation sites.

DOJ Review Completed.

DHS (FEMA) Review Completed.

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DD/S *Subject*

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- (d) The Attorney General is to explore thoroughly every possible alternative and substitute for martial law as a means of exercising governmental power in times and areas of emergency, and will serve as a Member of the Task Force on Martial Law.
- (e) Each Agency Head, under the coordination of the Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization, was requested to give special personal attention to the problem of communications under relocation or emergency conditions. Each should consider the most feasible methods by which special communications systems, both internal and government-wide can be set apart for urgent top-level communications only.

Maxwell M. Rabb  
Secretary to the Cabinet

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